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United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

February 5, 1947

Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*  
A. W. Manchester  
Director, Northeast Region

FAO PROGRESSES TOWARD  
INSURING WORLD PEACE. Decisions on world food proposals must be made by the people of the various nations and their governments, Under Secretary of Agriculture N. E. Dodd recently pointed out. He called on the people of the United States to inform themselves about program recommendations so that their representatives may finally express truly the people's decision.

The recently concluded special commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization has submitted proposals originating with representatives of various nations to the member governments. After consideration, the proposals will be acted upon by an FAO Conference.

Principal ideas advanced by the United States, through Mr. Dodd, the U. S. member of the Preparatory Commission, are:

1. Approach problems of better diets and price stabilization in connection with general expansion of production, employment, trade, and consumption, as envisaged in proposals for an International Trade Organization, considered complementary to the FAO program.
2. Meet particular price-stabilization problems through separate but coordinated international agreements covering specific commodities, within the general framework of principles for such agreements provided in the proposed ITO.
3. Participating nations, under such commodity agreements, to consider methods of using excess supplies to support special food programs to improve the diets of the most needy groups in connection with long-term development plans designed to overcome the cause of malnutrition.
4. Annual consultation upon such programs by the responsible national officials, in view of the importance of coordination of national agricultural and nutritional programs.

Long-term objectives of international action agreed on by FAO member nations are: "Developing and organizing production, distribution, and utilization of basic foods to provide diets on a health standard for the people of all countries; and stabilizing agricultural prices at levels fair to producers and consumers alike."



POTATO INTENTIONS EXCEED  
1947 GOAL IN EARLY COMMERCIAL  
STATES, BUT BELOW LAST YEAR

overage will occur in California, Florida, and Texas. Compared with 1946 acreage, however, when 250,000 acres were grown, the 1947 intentions show a substantial reduction.

Potato growers in 12 early commercial States intend to plant 208,700 acres this year. This compares with a U.S.D.A. goal of 200,000 acres. According to the January estimates most of the

Acreage and goals comparisons are given below:

Early Commercial States	1946 Planted Acreage	1947 Goal	1947 Intended Acreage	Percent Intentions of 1947 Goal
Texas	22,700	16,500	19,100	116
Florida	35,300	24,900	29,000	116
California	81,000	53,300	61,000	114
Louisiana	22,500	24,200	21,000	87
Mississippi	4,100	3,700	3,500	95
Alabama	24,000	21,900	21,000	96
Georgia	1,000	3,700	1,800	49
South Carolina	12,000	11,500	12,500	109
Oklahoma	1,200	2,000	1,200	60
Arkansas	5,500	6,100	5,000	82
Tennessee	5,800	4,200	4,600	110
North Carolina	34,000	28,000	29,000	104
Total	250,000	200,000	208,700	104

CONSERVATION FARMING  
BOOSTED BY DAVIS

Human inertia is the limiting factor in working toward more widespread soil conservation farming, says Chester C. Davis, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. "Soil conservation and the kind of farming that goes with it are not only right morally -- they pay big dividends in dollars and cents," Mr. Davis pointed out in an address before Department of Agriculture personnel.

"We can use a lot of the capital and the labor we have in every community to put complete soil-and-water-use programs in effect on individual farms. We have the capital, the tools, the "know-how," the minerals, and the seeds and plants with which to work a farming revolution here. The only thing that stands in the way is human inertia -- human behavior. . .

"I've gone the full cycle from the last war to this watching the evolution of farm policy aimed to provide remedies for farm problems as they unfolded. I am not afraid of the new or the untried, or of government action.

"But I know there is no magic. There is no substitute for efficient production . . . Nothing can take the place of good management of our soil and water resources. It will be better to seek high returns per worker through large-volume, low-cost production, than to try to get the same high return by means of high prices for scarce, limited production. But the rest of the economy must play the game under the same set of rules. . .

"There is a way to lick these problems here at home, and that is to have genuine teamwork of labor and industry and agriculture rooted firm in the understanding that the common good must have priority over the special interest of any one group . . . We are either going to practice that kind of teamwork, or we are going to have trouble -- plenty of it. If each major group insists on going down its own road, with no real meeting of minds on national policy, we will court national disaster. The same principle applies to the international situation as well."



VERMONT COUNTIES ORDER  
68 PERCENT OF ESTIMATED  
1947 LIME TONNAGE

County offices in Vermont had placed orders for 68 percent of the total estimated lime tonnage to be used under the 1947 Agricultural Conservation Program, according to a State report through January 17, 1947. On a Regional basis only nine percent of the total estimate had been ordered through the State or Syracuse office for that period. New Hampshire and Rhode Island counties had not placed any orders. Reports for the seven States follow:

State	Estimate of Tonnage to be Ordered	Orders Rec'd From County Office	Percent of Estimated Tonnage
Maine	87,710	3,652	4
Vermont	58,855	39,969	68
Massachusetts	74,050	9,794	13
Connecticut	61,300	357	.58
New Jersey	60,090	16,863	28
New York	788,650	38,917	5
Pennsylvania	838,326	67,205	8
Total	1,968,981	176,757	9

FROZEN EGG PROGRAM TO  
SUPPORT PRODUCER PRICES

The first direct price-support operation for eggs to be launched by the Government this year is the recently announced program for purchasing frozen eggs. It will supplement the similar dried eggs program for the United Kingdom, now being used to support prices in areas of heaviest production.

To sell frozen eggs to the Government, breakers and freezers must certify that they have paid producers an average of not less than 33 cents a dozen for all the shell eggs they buy. This price, which is the same as is required under the dried egg program, will prevail through February, March, and April.

Frozen eggs bought by the Government will be held for drying at a future date, for foreign shipment, or other disposition which would keep them from domestic trade channels.

MASSACHUSETTS LEADS NORTHEAST  
STATES IN 1946 ACP PAYMENTS

Through January 24, 1947, Massachusetts had certified 21 percent of the total estimated payments to be made under the 1946 Agricultural Conservation Program, although the Region as a whole had only 6 percent of the total certified. The State reports follow: Maine, \$23,580 certified - 6 percent of estimate; New Hampshire, \$968 - 2 percent; Vermont, \$11,446 - 4 percent; Massachusetts, \$62,029 - 21 percent; Rhode Island, none; Connecticut, none; New York, \$1670; New Jersey, \$5790 - 1 percent; Pennsylvania, \$265,786 - 11 percent; Northeast Region total, \$371,269 - 6 percent.

FORECAST CONTINUING HIGH  
CONSUMER DEMAND FOR  
FOREST PRODUCTS

Despite the fact that manpower and equipment shortages which hampered the forest products industries during the war and to a lesser extent in 1946 are being progressively overcome, it is not likely that industry will

be able to meet the consumer demand for forest products in full for many years, according to Lyle F. Watts, Forest Service Chief, in his annual report.

Sufficient manpower, equipment and sawmill capacity no doubt will be available in the next few years for a much larger output of lumber, but the increasing scarcity of good timber will continue to limit production. He predicted the present shortage of timber products will last until we grow a great deal more timber. In the past 36 years the Nation's wood pile has been reduced by more than 40 percent.



STATES TO RECOMMEND FUTURE EGG  
PRODUCTION AND PRICE PROGRAMS

production and price programs for eggs for 1948.

Each State PMA Committee has been requested to submit to the Regional Director not later than April 15 its recommendations for pro-

Egg production per capita during the past two years has averaged one-third higher than prewar while domestic consumption per capita has averaged one-sixth higher. The difference has been absorbed by unusual uses such as exports to the British. There is a possibility that egg production will be maintained at a high level by price supports at 90 percent of parity and that the cost to the Government for supporting egg prices during the Steagall period ending December 31, 1948, may be very high.

If export outlets are decreased or lost and if domestic consumption should decrease, the cost could be even higher. The Secretary has indicated that the Government must live up to the price support commitment to farmers. He has also indicated that in his opinion Congress intended that all possible measures should be taken in the formulation of price support programs to insure that by the end of the mandatory support period producers will have readjusted production to meet peacetime requirements of the supported commodities.

The Production and Marketing Administration has no specific program which it is recommending for adjusting egg production to demand during the Steagall period. Therefore, in accordance with the procedure agreed upon with the Administrator of PMA when the egg price support program for 1947 was under consideration, each State PMA Committee is requested to discuss with all segments of the industry such proposals and to make specific recommendations for a program to bring about the desirable production adjustment to peacetime demand for eggs.

Among the questions to be answered by persons attending state meetings are the following:

1. If the farm price of eggs is maintained at 90 percent of national parity, will the production of eggs be adjusted to the level of peacetime demand by the end of 1948?
2. Should the Department of Agriculture develop a program of production adjustment to peacetime demands?
3. If answer is "yes" what method should be used to bring about the necessary adjustment? (a) Base eligibility for price support on compliance with individual producer goals, and make compensatory payments to those who comply? (b) Any other method?
4. Would you favor legislation to reduce support to a level below 90 percent of parity?
5. Would you favor legislation to remove eggs from Steagall support?
6. What plan would you use to put into operation the recommendation checked above?

FOOD DELIVERIES BY USDA TOTAL  
1094 MILLION LBS. IN NOVEMBER

Recorded deliveries of food products by the Department of Agriculture to cash-paying foreign claimants, UNRRA, and other Government agencies totaled 1094 million lbs. in November. October deliveries totaled 962 million lbs. Deliveries to foreign Governments (excluding those assisted by UNRRA) totaled 726 million lbs. Farm products delivered to UNRRA totaled 251 million lbs. Transfers to Government agencies and to Government sponsored programs totaled 116 million lbs.

Recorded deliveries of food products by the Department of Agriculture to cash-paying foreign claimants, UNRRA, and other Government agencies



CONSERVATION IS CITIZENS'  
RESPONSIBILITY SAYS THOMPSON

Conservation of the Nation's land and water  
resources is the responsibility of all citizens.

This was the theme of a speech on January 30 by Grant Thompson, assistant director of the Field Service Branch. He spoke before the limestone division of the National Crushed Stone Association.

"The important task of looking after the land and water resources of our farmland ... demands the attention and support of 141 million people, the entire population of this country," he said, "for the boys and girls who play in city parks have just as big a stake in the Nation's soil as the boys and girls who are raising prize livestock for county fairs..

"The bottles of milk set on the city family's doorstep every morning and the meat on the city dinner table come from one place -- the soil. The price and continuous supply of that milk and that steak depend upon the productivity of the soil that produced them.

"Food doesn't grow on store shelves or in milk trucks. It comes from productive land and nowhere else."

Thompson pointed out that farmers are now putting six times as much lime on their land as they did 11 years ago when the Agricultural Conservation Program began. But he added that the 25 million tons spread in 1946 is less than half of our "carefully estimated national needs."

Nonetheless, there are other soil-building practices which probably need greater encouragement than the No. 1 practice of lime-spreading, he went on.

"For example, it is uneconomical to lime our land if we do not carry out other practices which will keep the soil from being washed away by erosion. Many farmers are far ahead on liming and far behind on erosion-control practices."

Discussing the annual cost of the ACP to U.S. citizens, Thompson said: "If we break down the share that goes for harvested cropland, we find that the people ... are contributing less than \$1.50 a person to help farmers take care of the land that produces nearly all of their food and much of their clothing . . . less than the cost of 7 gallons of gasoline. . . "The health and strength of all our people depend upon the productivity of our land. We must keep our fertility bank account solvent . . . to insure prosperous farmers, well-fed consumers, and a strong America."

GRAINS MOSTLY  
STORED ON FARMS

Most of the Nation's grain holdings the first of the year were on farms, reports the Department of Agriculture.

Stocks of corn in all positions on January 1 were the largest for the past four years, stocks of oats were the second largest, and barley and rye were the smallest, Wheat stocks were smaller than on January 1 of any of the preceding 6 years, but, except in 1939, much larger than in 1935 to 1940.

Here are the figures: Wheat, 643 million bushels of which 366 million were on farms; corn, 2237 million bushels with only 72 million in off-farm positions; oats, nearly 941 million bushels, 42 million of this off farms; barley, 175 million bushels with 65 million off farms; rye, 8½ million bushels with 4½ million off farms.



WHEAT PRICES STILL  
AT HIGH LEVELS

Wheat prices are still at high levels, though below the peaks reached in November and December, according to BAE's monthly "Wheat Situation." It now appears that exports of wheat and flour will exceed the 267 million-bushel goal announced in August. Exports totaled 158 million bushels in the last half of 1946 and may reach 325 million bushels for the entire marketing year.

Domestic wheat supplies in 1946-47 are now estimated at 1,256 million bushels consisting of a carry-in of 100 million bushels of old wheat and a crop of 1,156 million bushels. Wheat disappearance in the U. S. is expected to total nearly 790 million bushels, consisting of 525 million bushels for food, 180 for feed, and 87 for seed. This would leave about 465 million bushels for export during the marketing year or for carry-over July 1, 1947. If 325 million bushel are exported, carry-over would be about 140 million bushels.

A 1947 winter wheat crop of about 947 million bushels was forecast in December. A winter crop of this size would be 8 percent above the previous record of 874 million bushels in 1946. Wheat stocks in the U. S. on January 1, 1947, totaled 643 million bushels. World production, excluding Soviet Russia and China, for 1946 is now estimated at 4/15 billion bushels. This is the largest crop since 1939 and about 3 percent above the 1935-39 average.

VALUE OF ACP  
NOT MEASURABLE

From North Dakota comes word of the dollars-and-cents value of soil-building practices to farmers, not to mention their value to the long-term welfare of the Nation.

Director John E. Kasper of the North Dakota PMA says, via the Valley City Times Record, that he figures farmers of his State who received ACP assistance in 1946 actually carried out practices worth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the Federal assistance.

For some practices, he points out, farmers stand more than half the cost, not counting labor supplied by the farm family.

"But," he adds, "you can't determine the real value in dollars and cents. You can't add up the value of tons of topsoil saved, the fertility added back to depleted soils, the flooded areas drained, rangeland protected, or water saved, but certainly the value of conservation farming has shown up in the record-smashing crops of recent years."

(Agriculture in Action --Issued weekly and distributed in the Northeast to State PMA Committeemen, State Offices of PMA; Farmer Fieldmen; County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., and R.I.)



Radio Transcription  
A. W. Manchester, Director  
Northeast Region, Field Service Branch  
Production & Marketing Adm., USDA  
February 6, 1947, at 6:30 a.m.  
Station WBZ, Boston, Massachusetts

A surprising number of northeastern farm people are inquiring about sugar nowadays. It isn't simply that they are missing the familiar cakes and pies that play quite a role on the farm but frequently lack of sugar is interfering with the marketing of fruit or other farm products to either the housewife or to the food industries. The facts about the sugar supply in this country are roughly as follows:

Before the war, we used to use around 7 million tons a year. Of this about two million was raised by growers in this country. About three million came from the Island possessions of the United States, and the other two million from Cuba. Of our Island possessions -- Puerto Rico, Hawaii --and the Philippines, each contributed roughly a million tons.

The shortage in the war arose from several causes. The biggest was the loss of the Philippines with substantially all of its million tons. Production in this country fell off around 1/2 million tons -- largely because of serious labor difficulties. Sugarbeet production has usually been dependent largely on transient labor, a good deal of it Mexican. Very earnest efforts on the part of this country did not succeed in making enough labor available to get the beet fields weeded and the beets harvested.

Hawaiian production fell off a little as an effect of the war.

The Cuban crop has tended to increase, in spite of serious troubles in some seasons with drought and lack of fertilizer. The present Cuban crops gives every promise of being a recordbreaker. But the Cuban crop is normally shared with Europe and Canada. The war ruined a substantial part of the European production, so that the European demands for even a minimum supply have been extremely pressing. There simply hasn't been enough sugar to go around.

Now what about the future?

World production is picking up rapidly. It may be, with favorable growing conditions, that by the end of another crop season we shall be pretty well out of our sugar shortage. Certainly when Philippine production is restored and the European countries have gotten back to about a prewar basis, sugar troubles should be simply something to tell the grandchildren about.

The question is frequently raised, "Why do we let Europe get any of that Cuban sugar? We are nearer Cuba than they are -- we hold the contract with the Cuban Government -- and have more money to pay for sugar." That runs into questions of policy that involve the issues of just how we intend to live with our neighbors in this world.

(Continued on next page)

Radio Transcription - continued

It is a sober fact that so far as sugar goes, quite a few of them are very much worse off than we. We are on just the same ration as the United Kingdom and Canada, but we have twice as much sugar apiece, for instance, as the people of France; about five times as much as the people of Germany and Russia; six or seven times as much as the people of Poland and Spain; and nearly ten times as much as the people of Italy.

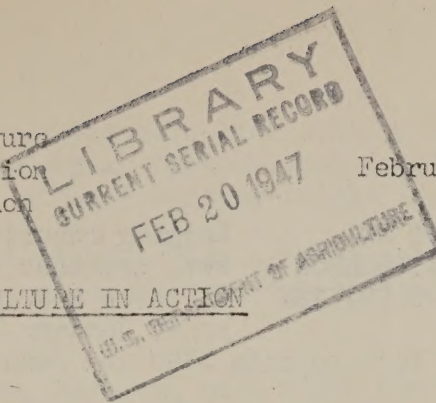
This country is full of business concerns whose volume of production and presumably whose profits are dependent on how much sugar they can get. Sugar is always a hotly controversial subject. It is pretty hard to get a clear and balanced view of the facts on which to base a sound judgment of the whole problem. But it happens that sugar presents one more field in which we can, if we want to, demonstrate that the American people are thoughtful and considerate enough to support the conditions that make for a peaceful and neighborly world.

It has already been forecast officially that there will be some increase this year -- probably around April first -- in the family sugar ration, and a 10 percent or better stepup in the amount made available to industries. And there is reasonable ground for hope that we shall be pretty well out of the woods in another year. The situation is constantly improving.

We Americans aren't noted for patience. In fact, not all of us consider it a virtue. But a little of it just now will help us demonstrate American fitness for the world leadership that has been thrust upon us.



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Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.



February 12, 1947

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

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*A. W. Manchester*  
A. W. Manchester  
Director, Northeast Region

REGIONAL LABORATORY TO  
ESTABLISH PILOT PLANT  
FOR POTATO SYRUP

At a recent meeting of members of the Pennsylvania Production and Marketing Committee and members of the Pennsylvania Potato Growers Cooperative Association, scientists discussed the possibility of changing

potato starch to sugar through the use of enzymes particularly adapted to this purpose.

According to Dr. George A. Jeffreys of Salem, Virginia, a scientist in biological processes, and Dr. Robert H. Treadway of the Eastern Research Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture at Philadelphia, the conversion of potato starch to syrup would be a comparatively simple process. Little equipment would be necessary except vats, temperature control and a vacuum type, low-temperature evaporator.

When reports of this reached Northeast State PMA Directors and State Committeemen at their recent meeting in Trenton, New Jersey, a committee was selected to call on Dr. P. A. Wells, Director, Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, to discuss further developments of this process as a possible future additional outlet for surplus or low grade potatoes.

The committee, Clyde A. Zehner, and John A. Smith of the Pennsylvania State PMA Committee now report that Dr. Wells has agreed to set up a pilot plant next summer to check the feasibility and cost of producing potato syrup.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY FARM  
INCOME MAY BE 30 PERCENT  
GREATER THAN IN 1946

Cash receipts from farm marketings and Government payments in the first two months of 1947 may total around 4 billion dollars or 30 percent greater than in 1946. Higher prices account for most of this increase, since

prices received by farmers are expected to average about 25 percent above the first two months of last year.

Total receipts from farm marketings in January were about 2.1 billion dollars, 15 percent below December, but nearly 40 percent above January 1946. Preliminary estimates indicate that cash receipts in February are likely to total about 1.8 billion dollars. Cumulative monthly estimates of cash receipts from farm marketings during 1946 amounted to 23,950 million dollars, or 15 percent more than the revised estimate for 1945.



MAINE DUMPS 6 MILLION CWT.  
POTATOES. N.Y. & PA. FOLLOW  
SUIT with 4000 CWT, CONN. FEW

were in Maine. New York reports 3389 and Pennsylvania 1014.

Lagging reports now indicate over 37 million  
cwt. potatoes under loan in the Northeast States.  
Of these nearly six million cwt. had been dumped  
as of January 25. All but 4000 cwt. of these

Another  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million cwt. have been delivered to school lunch, direct distribution,  
or livestock feed outlets. Of these, 1,400,000 cwt. were for livestock feed.

Connecticut has dumped some potatoes but the extent is not yet reported. Rhode  
Island expects to resort to dumping potatoes unless present outlets can be  
substantially increased. State figures are given below for potatoes under special  
or regular loan through January 25:

State	Placed Under Loan	Redeemed, Released or Delivered	Remaining Unredeemed	Delivered Ind. Live- stock Feed	Released	Offered to CCC, Not Accepted
Me.	30,297,054	6,628,896	23,668,158	816,823	5,812,073	10,269,773
N.H.	162,205	75,779	86,426	71,136		2,171
Vt.	101,391	54,151	47,540	27,023		
Mass.	503,578	186,263	317,315	186,263		
R.I.	302,963	53,102	249,861	41,399		84,637
Conn.	789,343	178,532	610,811	128,819		82,691
N.Y.	4,163,875	1,118,532	3,045,343	1,115,143	3,389	494,256
N.J.	19,750	8,180	11,570	8,180		
Penna.	881,485	81,660	799,825	80,646	1,014	208,000
Total	37,221,944	8,385,095	28,836,849	2,475,432	5,816,476	11,141,528

CROP INSURANCE SALESMEN  
AND COMMITTEEMEN MEET IN  
WASHINGTON TO OUTLINE PROGRAM

Top-ranking crop insurance salesmen and Agri-  
cultural Conservation committeemen from selected  
wheat-growing counties met in Washington the  
last week in January and outlined a program to

acquaint the Nation's farmers with Federal All-Risk Crop Insurance.

Attending from the Northeast were: Lester Wilson, Wyoming County New York;  
Earl Freyberger, Mercer County New Jersey; and Raymond Fullmer, Luzerne County  
Pennsylvania, all salesmen.

The group emphasized that farmers need an insurance that will protect them  
against loss of their crop investments. They concentrated on developing methods  
to explain the program to farmers.

Several Department of Agriculture officials explained the workings of the program  
in Washington and its relation to other programs of the Department. Among these  
were G. F. Geissler, Manager of the Corporation, Dave Davidson, Director of the  
Field Service Branch, and Jesse B. Gilmer, Acting Administrator of the PMA, and  
member of the board of directors of the Crop Insurance Corporation.

Federal all-risk crop insurance is available on a Nation-wide basis for flax,  
spring wheat, and cotton farmers now. In some counties, corn and tobacco growers  
can also obtain this all-risk investment protection.



USE OF LIME INCREASES      About 15 percent more lime will be used on American farms under the Agricultural Conservation Program, this year than last, according to latest estimates of the Department of Agriculture.

Statisticians expect that about 29½ million tons of lime will be put on the land this year under ACP, compared with an estimated total of less than 25 million in 1946.

The anticipated 15-percent increase, however, will still be far short of what the the Nation's soils need. Some 60 million tons of lime should be spread annually for the Nation's best welfare.

Lime means better farmland, and better health. Where there are acid soils, lime is the backbone of good farming -- and lime is used in all sections of the Nation. It adds fertility to the soil, and increases yields. It also releases plant foods in the soil so that they may be more easily absorbed by growing crops.

In recent years, most lime has been applied to the land through the three-way cooperation of farmers, businessmen, and the Government.

In 1945, for example, more than 90 percent of the lime used by farmers was spread in cooperation with ACP. And most of that lime was moved to farmers through local dealers and distributors.

176,000 NORTHEAST FARMERS SPREAD 2½ MILLION TONS OF LIMESTONE IN 1945	The application of lime was the most extensive single practice carried out by farmers in the Northeast in 1945, according to a statistical summary of the 1945 Agricultural Conservation Program.
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They treated 2 million acres with 2½ million tons. Most of it went on cropland but 11 percent was used for pasture improvement.

The reason lime has been stressed from the very beginning of the program in 1936 is that in the Northeast it is a necessary first step in a whole series of steps which altogether mean a revolution in our method of farming. It is needed for legumes -- legumes are needed for fertility -- fertility is needed for a good nutritious vegetative cover which, in turn, is necessary to support a prosperous agriculture and a healthy animal and human population.

On the average, Northeast States spent about 62 percent of their allocations for lime -- notably Pennsylvania with 77 percent followed by Maine with 62 percent. The other New England States used somewhat less than half their funds on lime while New York and New Jersey used 58 percent and 55 percent respectively.

In all, over 11 million dollars of program funds were used on 176,343 farms where this practice was carried out.

It's a lot of lime -- and a lot of work to spread it, too.

But, it's only half enough!



1464 CARS POTATOES EXPORTED  
TO DATE; 875 MORE TO LOAD OUT  
THIS WEEK; 4000 MORE EXPECTED

Up to the present time, 1464 cars of potatoes have been exported. Rolling to shipside this week are 875 more cars while the Department of Agriculture estimates that still another 4000

may be exported during coming weeks.

Of the 1464 cars shipped to date 604 went to Belgium, 322 to Italy, 140 to Spain, 315 to Portugal, and 19 to Albania. All of these were loaded from Maine at Seaside. In addition, France (Martinique) took 7 cars from Rhode Island; Puerto Rico took 53, (6 from Rhode Island, 13 from Connecticut, and 34 from Long Island, N.Y.;) while Venezuela accepted shipment of 4 cars -- Long Island (3) and Maine (1).

Cars ordered this week for export total approximately 875. Of these 625 will go to Portugal, 140 to Spain, and 110 to Switzerland although some delay has occurred in obtaining a boat for the Switzerland shipment.

As time and transportation permit another 4000 cars for export is anticipated by the Department.

As to other outlets, between 25-40 cars a week are being shipped for School Lunch and Direct Distribution to "out of State" areas, e.g. South Atlantic States, from New York and Pennsylvania. These are in addition to all livestock feed outlets.

To New Jersey, Vermont, and New Hampshire potatoes are being shipped from other States for livestock feed as contracts are requested.

The Secretary of Agriculture has approved \$5,000,000 of Section 32 funds for export benefit payments. Purchases are limited to potatoes now under loan and the program ends June 30, 1947.

In an effort to encourage the consumption of the surplus as food, potatoes purchased by the Department at the support price of about \$2.20 per cwt. have been offered to the Army, foreign governments, and international organizations for relief feeding at the price of four cents per cwt. f.o.b. shipping point. Relatively little interest has been evidenced in this offer because of the low food value per pound of fresh potatoes compared with grain, perishability, and high shipping costs. England and some other countries have restrictions prohibiting the importing of fresh potatoes if certain insects or diseases, common to the U.S., are carried by the potatoes. So far, potatoes exported or contracted for export amount to about 5 million bushels primarily to Belgium, Italy, Spain, France, and Portugal.

Other foreign governments and UNRRA have not been willing to accept these offers of fresh potatoes because of the handling difficulties and costs. Nor have they seen fit to pay the cost of 15 to 20 cents a pound for dehydrating the potatoes when they can purchase wheat flour at 5 to 6 cents per pound. As an illustration of the comparative cost, fresh potatoes donated free of charge at a port in this country cost more than flour purchased at 6 cents a pound on the basis of food value per unit when delivered to an European port. Additional factors which must also be considered are the loss in transit on potatoes and the inadequate storage and handling facilities for a perishable commodity after delivery to many foreign countries.



USDA ANNOUNCES TURKEY  
PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The USDA has announced a nation-wide price support program for turkeys to be operated from February 11 through June 30, 1947. The program may involve the purchase by Government of up to 10 million pounds of turkeys including 1946 crop birds remaining unsold by producers and breeding stock which will be marketed late this spring.

Purpose of the program is to enable producers who own 1946 turkeys to sell them -- largely heavy tom turkeys -- at prices which will reflect not less than 90 percent of parity. This cannot be done through regular trade channels under present market conditions, principally because record stocks of turkeys were in public storage on January 1.

Under the price support program the USDA will, at the outset, purchase turkeys owned by producers in storage or live and on farms at levels intended to reflect a national average producer live weight price of 25 cents per pound for all young toms and for heavy young hens, and 32.5 cents for hens under 18 pounds. A national average live weight price of 27.9 cents a pound at the farm is required to reflect 90 percent of parity to the producer.

Purchases of all turkeys under the price support program will be limited to dressed birds and will be made on an offer and acceptance basis in carlot quantities which may include turkeys of more than one grade and class.

Announced producer prices in Zone IV (Northeast Region), for live turkeys and purchase prices for dressed turkeys are:

Young hen turkeys (under 18 lbs) producer prices	33.50 cents
Grade A young hen turkeys (N.Y. dressed - under 13 lbs)	42.75
Young tom turkeys and young heavy hens 18 lbs. or over,	
Producer prices	26.00
Grade A Young tom turkeys and young heavy hens (N.Y. dressed)	33.75
Old hen turkeys (under 18 lbs.) producer prices	27.00
Grade A old hen turkeys (N.Y. dressed - under 13 lbs.)	35.00
Heavy old hen turkeys producer prices (18 lbs and over)	25.00
Grade A heavy old hen turkeys (N.Y. dressed)	33.00
Old tom turkeys -- producer prices	22.00
Grade A old tom turkeys (N.Y. dressed)	30.00

Grade A dressed prices are for box-packed turkeys at the point of purchase. Grade B dressed prices will be 3.0 cents a pound less on all classes.

Disposition of the turkeys acquired under the purchase program is planned as follows: (1) Sales through commercial trade channels, (2) sales for export, (3) sales to other governmental agencies, (4) use under the school lunch program, and (5) conversion to canned form for disposition to the previously designated outlets.

1946 PAYMENTS CERTIFIED For the period ending January 31, 1947, only 8.3 percent of the total estimated 1946 ACP payments were certified in the Northeast Region. State reports follow: Maine, \$23,530 - 6%; New Hampshire, \$968 - 2%; Vermont, \$14,815 - 5.2%; Massachusetts, \$62,060 - 21%; Rhode Island, none; Connecticut, none; New York, \$48,173 - 2.9%; New Jersey, \$30,757 - 3.6%; Pennsylvania, \$337,489 - 14.1%.



GILMER NAMED AS FMA. Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced on February 10 the appointment of Jesse B. Gilmer as Administrator and President of CCC of FMA and President of the Commodity Credit Corporation. He has served as Acting FMA Administrator and Acting President of CCC since last November.

Gilmer assumes the duties of his new assignments with a background of more than a dozen years administrative experience in several Department of Agriculture agencies. He was born in Rock Springs, Texas, in 1910. Following graduation from the New Mexico A and M College in 1934, Gilmer joined the staff of the AAA for special dust bowl work in New Mexico. He transferred to the Resettlement Administration, which later became the the Farm Security Administration, in 1935. With this agency he was Assistant Regional Director, and later Regional Director of the Southern Great Plains Region, with headquarters at Amarillo, Texas, before being called into Washington as Assistant Administrator.

In 1945, Gilmer was appointed Executive Assistant to the President of the CCC and was also named Secretary of the Corporation. When the Production and Marketing Administration was established in August 1945, Gilmer was named Director of its Budget and Management Branch. He was appointed Deputy Administrator and Vice President of the CCC in April 1946 and Acting Administrator and Acting CCC President in November.

CUBAN BLACKSTRAP MOLASSES OFFERED FOR LIVESTOCK FEED. Now the cows may have a chance to satisfy their sweet tooth. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced recently that it would sell two full cargoes of Cuban blackstrap molasses for feed use only. Each cargo will consist of about 1 million 400 thousand gallons. The stocks were to be sold to the highest bidder.

Before the war, imports of blackstrap molasses for feed amounted to from 50 to 75 million gallons a year. About four times as much was used in the production of industrial and beverage alcohol.

During the war imported molasses was used almost exclusively in the production of industrial alcohol that was needed in the war program.

TOBACCO OUTLOOK GOOD. Production and consumption of tobacco are expected to continue at high levels during the first half of 1947, says the Department of Agriculture. Consumption for the year probably will equal and may exceed 1946, if income payments and employment are maintained near current levels.

Tobacco supplies are large. The 1946 crop of fire-cured tobacco was the largest ever produced, and supplies for the 1946-47 marketing year are higher than for the previous year. Burley supplies are at a very high level, and the third successive large crop is being marketed. Supplies of fire-cured, dark air-cured, and domestic cigar filler are all above last year, with total disappearance of all types except dark air-cured in 1946-47 expected to exceed that in 1945-46.

CHECK ENCLOSURE APPROVED FOR ACP PAYMENTS

The following notice will be enclosed with farmers' 1946 ACP payment checks as soon as such notices can be printed: "The enclosed check represents the conservation practice payment you have earned and made application for under the Agricultural Conservation Program, as approved by your Agricultural Conservation Committee."



Radio Transcription  
A. W. Manchester, Director  
Northeast Region, Field Service Branch  
Production and Marketing Adm., USDA  
February 13, 1947 - 6:15 a.m.  
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

Potato growers keep asking about the potato program for the coming year. They, naturally, want to be sure about it before they finally settle their plans for planting.

At this moment I still can't give all the details, but the most important fact is definite -- has been definite for a good while. That is that an acreage goal is already set or to be set for every commercial farm and that the grower is promised no price support unless he plants within that goal.

Reports from the areas where the crop is already planted are that growers as a rule are cooperating in the program. California early acreage is reported cut from 81 thousand acres last year to 61 thousand this year.

The winter production in Florida and Texas is estimated at only a little over one-half of last year's crop.

Farmers' intended plantings for the summer crop are reported as cut from 132 thousand acres last year to 112 thousand this.

Total plantings for winter, spring, and summer potatoes are estimated as cut over 60 thousand acres -- from 382 thousand to 319 thousand.

It looks as though farmers had made up their minds to prevent a repetition of the waste that an enormous crop like that of last year makes inevitable.

Incidentally, another crop like that would be even worse. Some of the uses to which this year's surplus was put are no longer available. Distilling, for instance, would be likely to utilize very few. Distillers have pretty generally turned back to using their customary materials, largely grain. Distilling took something like 28 million bushels of potatoes last year.

Quite a few million bushels (the quantity keeps growing) of the potatoes now in storage -- are being shipped to the hungry people in Europe. That, too, would be a very doubtful outlet another year.

Some may be wondering whether with the prospective acreage reductions we aren't in danger of running short of potatoes.

It is never possible to say that can't happen. It could have happened last year, but we had a hundred million bushels surplus. Widespread drought, or incredibly bad blight weather over great areas or some new potato disease sweeping the country could cause shortages.

(continued next page)



But you don't prepare for four blow-outs every time you take your car out of the garage. And with any yield that seems reasonably probable, there ought to be potatoes enough.

To turn to another subject, international trade has moved into a principal place in the discussions and planning of the more far-sighted farm leaders.

The farm prosperity of the past few years has been founded on two things -- the high earnings of the American public and the great shipments abroad of American-produced foods.

With an agriculture geared to a production 35 to 40 percent above pre-war, American farming can't afford much shrinkage of either the foreign or domestic market.

It makes sense, too, to keep producing at capacity levels and to get that food to those who need it.

Of course, those capacity levels ought to be levels that we can maintain. That means levels of production that are consistent with soil conservation.

That statement doesn't seem very important in the East. With modern fertilization and good soil handling it almost seems as though the harder you work land the better it grows. But even here, there is need for better rotations and more green manure crops.

It does make real sense, however, in areas like the Great Plains, where too much plowing of the wrong land is the prelude to dust storms and widespread soil ruin as soon as the next prolonged dry spell comes along.

But after we have provided for proper conservation, assuming the further spread of the newer methods of soil protection, we shall have a good many million bushels of wheat and grains and a good many other farm products that need a foreign outlet.

The nations of the world through the Food and Agriculture Organization have been studying the allied questions of how to provide enough food to all people and how to maintain stability of farm prices.

Their proposals, like all proposals for better international trade, will face the clash of many little individual interests pointing one way and the broad general interest pointing the other.

Those who are backing the FAO proposals are confident that they will cost less than other ways of handling the so-called farm surpluses and will at the same time feed those who would otherwise be hungry and build international friendship in the place of distrust and dislike.

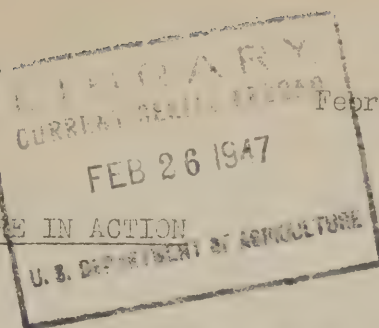
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(Agriculture in Action -- Issued weekly and distributed in the Northeast to State FA Committee-men, State Offices of FA; Farmer Migration; County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., R.I.)



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United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.



February 19, 1947

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*  
A. W. Manchester  
Director, Northeast Region

THE SOONER WE ACT ON  
CONSERVATION, THE CHEAPER  
IT WILL BE -- MANCHESTER

I am going to make a statement that is in the "view-with-alarm" class. I realize that we have been subjected to so much of this horrified peering into the future that we are apt to be a little bit incredulous.

Nevertheless, I have been digging up some facts and I am going to pass them on to you even though they are in the view-with-alarm class. To me, they seem to be facts that we ought to look at squarely even though they aren't very pleasant. They are facts about the soil situation in this country.

Here's the one that strikes me the most forcefully. There are about 360 million acres of crop, range and pasture land in this country that is still fair agricultural land but that won't be any good ten years from now if we keep on farming it the way we are. These 360 million acres are in a critical condition from the standpoint of the rate at which they are losing productive capacity. We have less than ten years in which to do what needs to be done to reverse the trend toward complete soil depletion on this land. Neglect beyond that ten-year period would mean either permanent loss from agriculture or at best a difficult and costly job of restoring the land to even a modestly useful condition.

Besides this 360 million acres that is in a distinctly critical condition, we have 600 million more that is still running down hill but on which we can put off taking adequate measures, if we have to, for a little longer without reaching a practically hopeless stage. The sooner we act on this 600 million acres, the cheaper it will be, and the sooner we will begin getting full returns. But it is not likely to get beyond hope in short of around 25 years.

That's the alarming side of the picture. Now, the good side. We have made tremendous progress since the first Soil Conservation Act was passed in 1935. For instance, as a major step in preventing soil erosion, we have terraced around 13 million acres. That's a lot of land. It's around one-seventh of all the crop land that we need to terrace.

We have gotten contour farming on around 18 million acres. That's one-eighth of all that needs contour farming. And we have made similar progress with erosion control plantings, mechanical structures to prevent soil washing, drainage, and so on, and so on. It's a fine beginning.

The great range areas of the country -- a great national resource which we little appreciate here in the East -- are being constantly depleted by overstocking and bad range management. But somewhere from 40 to 50 million acres of range have been brought under an adequate system of management. There are about eight times as many more acres that need a similar system.

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(Continued from page one)

We've done much better, comparatively, in increasing the use of some of the minerals that are essential to crop rotations that conserve and build the soil. The use of lime has been expanded to the point where we are using nearly half as much lime as our soils should have. We are using one ton of phosphate where we need five. In both cases we are using several times as much as before the conservation program.

I guess I've given you enough figures, perhaps too many.

It is reassuring, too, that we can even begin to take stock with a considerable degree of accuracy as to where we stand in regard to gains or losses of our soils. It's encouraging to me that we know pretty well what needs to be done. We can see the size of the job, and we know about what it will take to get it done. The balance sheet can be laid before the country and the country can decide whether it wants its soils to continue to run down or when and to what degree it wants to shoulder the job of balancing the soil budget. The soil deficit that we are piling up now will have to be paid back some day if we want to continue to live well and economically in this country. We don't have new soils that we can turn to as we discard old ones. We and our children have got to live from the soils we are operating now. The longer we defer balancing the soil budget, the greater the cost will be. It's a debt that increases with compound interest.

In my thinking, soil conservation is not a job that farmers can be expected to do alone. Somewhere around half the acreage of the country, for instance, is farmed by tenants who have no permanent interest in the soil they farm. Maintenance of the soil is for the good of all the people in the country and there appears to be no practical way by which we can be assured that that soil will be maintained except as the country itself assumes a substantial share of the responsibility. --- A. W. Manchester, Radio Transcription, February 20, 1947  
Station WBZ - Boston, Mass. - 6:15 a.m.

**MORE ON POTATO SYRUP** There is a little more to the potato syrup story published last week, according to a written report received since then. The meeting with Dr. Wells of the Eastern Research Laboratory was also attended by Willis K. Morgan, New Jersey Potato Industry Committee; P.D. Frantz and Ed Fisher, representing the Pennsylvania potato growers; and Loyal Odhner and Dr. E. L. Nixon of the Chain Store Council of Pennsylvania.

The report states that "Dr. P. A. Wells and a group of five specialists made reports of research in acid hydrolysis of starch in making low grade syrup for livestock feed; but had little to report in the conversion of potato starch to syrup through enzymic processes. . . Malt enzymes have been used in some laboratory experiments, but to date no economical process has been discovered, Dr. Wells proposes to build a pilot plant for research in many phases of starch conversion. He believes this plant will be completed by the fall of 1947."

\* \* \*

---Farmers plan to buy about 6 percent fewer baby chicks this year, reports the Department of Agriculture. Smaller purchases are planned in all parts of the country except the Middle Atlantic States, where an increase of 3 percent is planned.



POTATO EXPORT TO REACH 3022 CARS BY FEB. 22 Unless car shortage impedes this week's shipments, total potato exports up to February 22 are expected to reach 3022 cars. This will not include some shipments handled by private export firms under the export subsidy program.

This week's shipments of more than 900 cars are all from Maine destined for the most part for Portugal. Loadings will include 310 cars of certified cobbler seed purchased at support price and destined for Italy.

In addition to Maine export shipments 19 cars were recently shipped to Puerto Rico for direct distribution to School Lunch Programs and hospitals. Six of them were from Rhode Island and 13 from Connecticut.

Shipments from New York and Pennsylvania have been made to southern States for direct distribution and Long Island continues to ship 9 cars per day to U.S. Industrial Alcohol at Newark, N.J.

All States are continuing to push livestock feeding.

Under contract for export to China are 110,000 pounds of Sebago certified seed from Colorado.

LARGE FOOD SUPPLIES DUE FOR 1947 Food supplies in 1947 for U. S. consumers will be about as large per person as in 1946, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Individual foods for civilian consumption in 1947 will differ from 1946. There will be less lamb and mutton, dried fruits, and perhaps smaller quantities of fresh vegetables and fruits and total milk in all forms.

On the other hand, there will be more beef, canned fish, canned fruits and fruit juices, sugar, dry beans, spices, cereal products, and butter. The nutritive value of the estimated food supply for 1947 is about the same as last year, and substantially higher than in 1935-39.

The per capita consumption picture for 1946, as compared with the supply expected for 1947:

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>
Meat	144 lbs.	150 to 155 lbs. (5 to 10 lbs. more beef)
Fish	3.4 lbs.	Slightly larger supplies
Eggs	375 eggs	About 360 eggs.
Chicken	22.8 lbs.	About the same
Turkey	4.2 lbs.	About 4 lbs.
Dairy products (all forms)	818 lbs.	About 800 lbs.
(Fluid milk and cream - 423 lbs.)		Lower, but above pre-war 340 lbs.
(Butter - 10.5 lbs.)		Lower than pre-war, but over 1945 & 1946
Fats and oils	40 lbs.	Above 1946.
Fruits (fresh)	About 230 lbs.	Larger supplies
Vegetables	131 lbs.	May decline 5 to 10% from past 2-yr. level.
Sugar	72-73 lbs.	About 80 lbs.
Wheat	210 lbs.	Larger supplies.
Coffee	17 lbs.	About 1/2 lb. below 1946

\* \* \*

---Ample feed supplies and favorable weather resulted in record high egg production in January. Number of layers on farms decreased 6 percent, but this was more than offset by a new high rate of lay at 11.6 eggs per layer.



29% OF NORTHEAST PRACTICE  
CREDIT EARNED FOR SUPER,  
279,636 TONS UNDER '45 ACP

More than 129,000 farmers in the Northeast States  
used 279,636 tons of superphosphate under the 1945  
Agricultural Conservation Program. Credit earned  
totalled \$5,264,165 or on the average 29 percent of  
the Regional total for all practices.

Usage percentagewise was greatest in New Hampshire and Vermont at 49 percent of  
the State total for all practices and smallest in Pennsylvania and New Jersey  
with 18 and 19 percent respectively. Other States varied from 25 percent in Maine  
to 42 percent in Rhode Island.

Sixteen percent of the superphosphate was used on pastures and 11 percent of the lime.

The following table gives the comparative use of lime and super by States:

#### APPLICATION OF LIMING MATERIALS

State and Region	Number of Farms	E X T E N T			C R E D I T E A R N E D	
		Total : Tonnage : Applied	Portion Applied on Pastures	Total Acreage Treated	Tot. Quantity : Times : Credit Rate	Portion of State Total
Maine	8,461	83,409	5 %	132,619	\$ 531,523	62.51%
N.H.	4,581	32,086	16	28,384	147,962	43.54
Vt.	8,915	99,487	5	66,575	423,217	43.15
Mass.	6,470	73,604	8	56,359	363,106	48.91
R.I.	877	8,873	13	10,037	40,871	47.83
Conn.	4,253	60,328	18	43,259	255,791	48.44
N.Y.	57,593	866,085	12	693,908	3,855,719	57.93
N.J.	9,878	208,713	5	200,967	932,947	54.99
Penna.	75,315	1,154,985	11	877,450	4,809,171	76.91
N. East	176,343	2,587,570	11	2,109,558	\$11,360,307	62.65
N. Cen.	426,616	12,841,130	12	5,503,353	22,058,353	24.50
E. Cen.	198,008	3,974,315	34	2,675,300	10,487,152	28.14
South.	41,013	1,141,959	48	925,041	3,431,662	6.65
West.	15,034	792,852	2	356,300	1,884,070	3.37
Total	847,014	21,337,826	19	11,569,582	49,221,544	10.47

#### APPLICATION OF PHOSPHATE MATERIALS (20% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)

Maine	3,517	11,279	22%	92,545	216,429	25.45%
N.H.	5,088	8,976	9	51,392	167,341	49.24
Vt.	12,000	25,862	19	129,363	488,982	49.86
Mass.	7,381	13,688	10	81,528	259,407	34.95
R.I.	870	1,911	10	11,523	36,307	42.48
Conn.	4,142	10,775	14	54,269	200,415	37.95
N.Y.	61,406	124,147	12	686,648	2,426,400	36.46
N.J.	3,397	19,305	18	120,629	330,888	19.50
Penna.	31,502	63,693	23	370,170	1,137,996	18.20
N. East	129,303	279,636	16	1,598,067	5,264,165	29.03
N. Cen.	539,209	798,683	15	8,616,942	15,985,834	17.76
E. Cen.	256,646	532,152	42	3,868,452	9,946,637	26.69
South.	173,693	585,692	35	3,905,260	9,297,464	18.03
West.	54,083	204,336	36	1,612,322	3,641,983	6.52
Total	1,152,934	2,400,549	28	19,601,043	44,136,083	17.45

(Continued next page)



(Continued from page 4)

Credits earned for other practices for the Northeast in 1945, expressed in terms of percent of regional total and dollars, were 0.67 percent mulch - \$122,156; 1.99% potash - \$360,146; 3.63% green manure and cover crops - \$656,657; 1.11% harvesting legume and grass seeds - \$201,146.

Less than .005% terracing -- \$90.00; 0.02% contour farming intertilled crops -- \$2972.00; 0.20% establishing contour stripcropping -- \$35,692; 0.02% establishing sod waterways - \$4,455; 0.26% constructing or cleaning farm drainage ditches -- \$48,211; 0.10 tile drainage systems -- \$17,819; 0.15% diversion ditches - \$26,706; 0.08% seeding or reseeding permanent pasture - \$13,875; 0.12% maintaining contour stripcropping - \$1029; 0.09% sanding cranberry bogs - \$16,800.

As a total for the Region \$18,132,000 was earned which when adjusted for small payment increases made a gross credit earned total of \$20,862,000. This represents the value of all practices reported as performed.

However, in terms of actual cash paid to farmers and actual cost to the Government for materials and services the estimated payments made for the 1945 program totaled \$17,541,000 in the Northeast. This included the small payment increase adjustment. This is less than the gross payment earned because of the limitation placed on individual farms by soil building allowances. Some farms failed to earn the allowance computed for the farm while others greatly exceeded the computed allowance. In no case could the payment exceed the allowance nor could adjustments be made between farms..

#### USDA EXTENDS DRIED EGG PURCHASE PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture extended its 1947 program for the purchase of dried whole eggs to obtain an additional 13 million lbs. for the United Kingdom. The additional quantity, which makes a total commitment of 33 million lbs. of dried eggs so far this year, is for delivery to the Department through March and April. Out of the first two commitments of 10 million lbs. each, the Department has obtained approximately 18,500,000 lbs.

The Department also announced the purchase of 6,545,151 lbs. of frozen whole eggs for price support purposes. This makes a total of 7,588,191 lbs. bought since this program was announced Jan. 29. While the dried egg program was launched as a means of obtaining the product for the British, it is serving, along with the frozen egg program, as a price support operation in Midwestern areas where egg production is heaviest.

#### TRIGG APPOINTED DEPUTY PMA ADMINISTRATOR

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced the appointment of Ralph S. Trigg as Deputy Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration on Feb. 13.

After three and one-half years of service in the Navy, with the rank of Lt. Commander, Trigg joined the staff of the Department in January 1946 as Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture. He was appointed Assistant PMA Administrator in June.

Since November, when former Deputy Administrator Jesse B. Gilmer was named Acting Administrator, Trigg has served as deputy to Gilmer in the over-all direction of the activities of the agency. With Gilmer's appointment as PMA Administrator, Trigg becomes Deputy Administrator.



FEBRUARY CROP REPORT SAYS  
1947 PRODUCTION FAVORABLE

The outlook for agricultural production in 1947 is favorable. The February crop report says that there has been mild weather over most of the country, and seasonal work has advanced rapidly. The general impression is that farmers will be in a favorable position in 1947 to maintain production at the high level of recent years.

Some crop damage has been done, however, by recent cold weather. Winter truck production is estimated at 5 percent below a year ago, and spring crop vegetables may be reduced as much as 8 percent below the acreage of last spring. The damage to citrus cannot be determined for some time.

During the month of January, a couple more farm production records were broken. Farm poultry flocks laid eggs at the highest rate of any January in history. Production was 6 percent above that of January a year ago. Production of milk per cow in dairy herds on February 1 was the highest on record for that date. Total milk production was 2 percent more than in January a year ago.

"PROPHET OF THE  
FIELDS"

Most of the time we take crop reports for granted as something which emerges regularly from the labyrinthine corridors of the Department of Agriculture. The patient unsung "Prophet of the Fields" who faithfully reports what's happening on the farms in his neck of the woods is too often forgotten.

This little poem by the Editor of the Wisconsin Agriculturalist and Farmer was brought to our attention by E. L. Gastiger of the Harrisburg office, BAE.

The Crop Reporter

The Crop Reporter is the guy  
Whose ready pen and watchful eye  
Keeps tabs on seasons, soils and crops  
And sifts successes from the flops.

His careful notes  
On yields of oats  
And size of shoats  
Or glossy coats  
Of cows or goats

Are used in estimator's quotes.  
Such farm statistics, by the way,  
Reporters furnish without pay,  
They give the world a real insight  
To agriculture's scope and might!

No urge save duty moves his pen  
To list farm lore within his ken;  
And tho his hours with work are spent  
His letters come with no lament.

On cows and corn  
And dewy morn  
Or drought forlorn  
Or hoof and horn  
And wool that's shorn --

Are facts his record books adorn.  
Your true reporter's zip and vim  
Most certainly belong to him,  
So as we count out yearly yields,  
Let's praise this Prophet of the Fields!

—Elwood R. McIntyre

FREEZE IN FLORIDA MAY  
REDUCE TRUCK CROPS SUPPLY

Tender crops in all Florida areas have been hard hit by sub-freezing temperatures (19° -24°) since Feb. 5. Although no final estimate of the damage is possible,

it is certain that there have been heavy losses of snap beans, tomatoes, peppers, lima beans, cucumbers, eggplant and squash.

Potato plants were cut to the ground, and there was some damage to cabbage and strawberries. Tonnage losses for the season will be determined by the extent of salvage operations and replantings.



USDA ANNOUNCES POTATO  
EXPORT SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced an export subsidy program designed to facilitate further its existing program for moving United States potatoes to foreign markets through the media of private processors and exporters.

This program does not apply to U.S. insular or territorial possessions, officials said. These domestic sales will continue to be made as at present, through normal commercial channels. The program is not designed to apply to countries, such as Cuba, normally supplied through regular commercial channels.

In carrying out this new program the Department will enter into contracts with private exporters through announcements, open offers, negotiations, or other means. Provisions of the program include requirements that only potatoes under CCC loan be utilized; that potato producers be paid support prices for potatoes utilized in the program; and that none of the potatoes or potato products exported under this program be re-imported into the United States in any form.

INDICATED EARLY POTATO  
PRODUCTION IS DOWN

Texas and Florida's production of early commercial potatoes from the winter crop is indicated at 1,233,000 bushels -- about one-half the 2,428,000 bushels harvested in 1946. About 40 percent of the Florida crop in the Everglades was abandoned and yields from the remaining acreage were reduced sharply by blight.

LIME ORDERS SHOW  
GOOD INCREASE

During the reporting period January 17-31, lime orders received from county offices showed a substantial increase over the previous two weeks.

The percentage of orders received on January 31 compared with January 17 is included in the following table.

State	Estimate of Tonnage to be Ordered	Orders Rec'd From Co. Offices Jan. 31	Percent- age Jan. 31	Percent- age Jan. 17	Deliveries Made Jan. 31
Connecticut	61,300	5,781	9	.58	1051
Maine	87,710	4,707	5	4.0	3514
Massachusetts	74,050	17,812	24	13.0	3002
New Hampshire	43,633	833	2	--	--
New Jersey	61,388	23,222	38	28.0	7557
New York	790,350	81,814	10	5.0	6709
Pennsylvania	838,456	125,860	15	8.0	7918
Vermont	60,673	45,477	75	68.0	10,280

CALL FOR BALE  
TIE ORDERS

"Place orders for bale ties early," farmers are urged. And many farmers whose bale tie requirements last year couldn't be met until around November will take the advice to heart.

What's more, production and distribution of ties this year will be entirely up to the trade, with no government direction or allocation. So it's particularly important that farmers indicate their demands by placing orders and accepting deliveries as early as possible. That way dealers can order maximum quantities without building up abnormal inventories. Factories must be kept busy if enough bale ties are to be made to meet the needs.

Result? Bale ties will be on hand where and when they're needed.

GRAIN EXPORT GOAL By the end of January, shipment of U. S. grain abroad  
60 PERCENT SHIPPED totalled more than 60 percent of the 400-million-bushel  
goal set last summer, the Department of Agriculture  
estimates. Exports for the first 7 months of the 1946-47 marketing year exceeded  
243 million bushels of grain, mostly wheat and flour. Record-breaking 1946 har-  
vests are providing ample supplies of grain. Improvement in the transportation  
situation may make it possible to ship 100-150 million bushels more than the goal  
figure.

Through December, nearly 197 million bushels of grain and grain products had  
been shipped under our commitments. Despite severe transport difficulties, this  
was only 13 million bushels less than the 210-million-bushel shipping allocation  
made for the last 6 months of 1946.

President Truman recalled Granville Conway, former administrator of the War  
Shipping Administration, to be coordinator of Emergency Export Programs. Conway  
will coordinate the grain shipping activities of USDA, the Office of Defense  
Transportation, and the Maritime Commission.

After January shipments of more than 46 million bushels, only 157 million bushels  
of the goal figure remain to be shipped. Of this amount 46 million bushels has  
been allocated for shipment in February and over 57 million bushels for March.  
If this same rate is maintained for the remaining 3 months of the marketing year,  
shipments will exceed the goal by a substantial amount. Last year's marketing  
year saw 401 million bushels shipped abroad.

A 1946-47 export goal of 250 million bushels of wheat and flour was announced at  
the end of the 1945-46 export program. This amount, with 17 million bushels  
carried over from last year's program, made a wheat export target of 267 million  
bushels for the 1946-47 marketing year. Later, this goal was raised to 400 million  
bushels, including shipments of corn, oats, and other grains for food use abroad.

The goal increase was made possible by the record crops of wheat and corn pro-  
duced by American farmers. The big 1946 harvest also made it possible to relax  
and lift many of the restrictions on domestic use of grains without slowing the  
export program.

First estimate for the 1947 winter wheat crop indicates that production may be a  
record 947 million bushels. This would be 2 percent above the 1946 record crop.  
With an average spring wheat crop, supplies for 1947-48 may be about 1,170 million  
bushels. Assuming domestic needs at 775 to 800 million bushels, about 380 would  
be left for export or addition to carry-over.

Estimated Wheat Supplies in 1946-47 (Million Bu.)

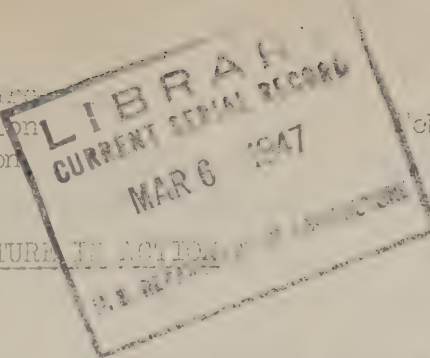
Carryover, July 1, 1946	100	Food and Industrial Uses	525
Wheat crop in 1946	1156	Seed and Livestock Feed	267
Total 1946-47 supplies	1256	Total Domestic Use	792
Left for carryover and export		464	
Estimated export		300-325	
Carryover July 1, 1947		149-164	

Estimated Corn Supplies in 1946-47 (Million Bu.)

Carryover, Oct. 1, 1946	163	Domestic Use	2715	Left for carry-
Corn crop in 1946	3381	Food and Industrial Use	260	over, export: 570
Imports	1	Total Domestic Use	2975	Est. exports 100
Total 1946-47 supplies	3545	Carryover Oct. 1, 1947		470



United States Department of Agriculture  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Field Service Branch, Northeast Region  
Washington 25, D. C.



February 28, 1947

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Dear Committeemen:

The information included in this letter is to assist you in the administration of Production and Marketing Administration programs and provide understanding of related actions.

*A. W. Manchester*

A. W. Manchester

Director, Northeast Region

WORLD WHEAT AGREEMENT

PROPOSED BY WHEAT COUNCIL

The U. S. share of the world wheat market would equal about 8 percent of the country's current average crop, according to a proposed agreement submitted recently by the International Wheat Council to major wheat exporting and importing countries.

This share was determined in 1942 discussions, based on average world marketings of about 500 million bushels. In bushels, this country's share would amount to about 80 million, approximately our average exports in prewar years.

This figure contrasts sharply with current wheat exports from the United States, which have been running at about 300 million bushels, nearly a third of present production. These large exports have been required because of poor wheat crops in Southern Hemisphere countries and wartime disruption of wheat production in other countries.

The wheat agreement was made in 1942 by the United Kingdom, Australia, Argentina, Canada, and the United States, and will be used as a basis from which to start current discussions at the council's conference which opens in London, March 18. Since 1942, the council has been expanded to include major wheat importing countries as well as the four major exporters.

Prices proposed would assure American farmers about \$1 to \$1.30 a bushel farm price for wheat sold in the world market. These also contrast sharply with present high prices which are largely influenced by export demands. In mid-December the average price received by farmers was \$1.92. Provision is made under the agreement for export programs to be determined in July and revised later if the council deems it necessary.

The 1942 agreement tentatively proposed that, up to 500 million bushels, the world wheat market would be divided with Canada getting 40 percent or 200 million bushels; Argentina, 25 percent or 125 million bushels; Australia, 10 percent or 50 million bushels; and the United States, 15 percent or 75 million bushels. These figures are based largely on past history of exports from these major wheat exporters.

If exports exceeded the 500-million-bushel figure, the remainder would be divided among the exporters, based on ability to satisfy requirements most effectively, balance-of-payment conditions both of exporters and importers, and stock positions of exporters.

Production and marketing management is provided for under the draft memorandum to keep world stocks of wheat within agreed limits. The objectives outlined are to establish wheat prices fair to both consumers and producers, assure adequate supplies and reserves, avoid burdensome surpluses, maintain efficient wheat production, satisfy world wheat requirements most effectively, and promote increased wheat consumption.

POTATO PURCHASE PROGRAM  
UNDERWAY IN FLORIDA

A direct purchase program has been authorized for South Florida's 1947 potato crop. Offers to purchase will be made at \$3.80 per cwt. for U. S. No. 1's graded, sacked and loaded on cars. For sizes U. S. No. 1, B's and No. 2's, the purchase price is \$1.90 per cwt. Purchases are expected to begin this week.

It is planned to limit purchases, in so far as possible, to the lower grades. These will be used for direct distribution in Florida only in so far as outlets are available. To the extent no Florida outlet is available through direct distribution, the lower grades will be diverted to livestock feed or dumped.

Any U. S. No. 1's which it becomes necessary to purchase will be available for direct distribution in any State.

South Florida's 1947 crop is estimated at 1,173,000 bushels from 10,200 acres, compared with the 1936 production of 2,380,000 bushels from 13,600 acres.

Marketing charges which will be deducted from the above purchase prices of \$3.80 and \$1.90 will amount to \$1.038 per cwt. -- cleaning and washing 20 cents, grading 10 cents, bags 13 cents, packing 19.8 cents, inspection 2 cents, loading 10 cents, selling 20 cents, and hauling 10 cents.

CALCIUM CONTENT OF SOIL  
AFFECTS SIZE AND RUGGEDNESS  
OF LIVESTOCK BREEDS

"It is a common belief among those familiar with the livestock of various countries that the fertility of the soil in any district has a marked effect on the size and ruggedness of a breed of livestock which originates there," according to Professor F. B. Morrison, Cornell University, in his textbook, "Feeds and Feeding."

Morrison claims that, "Ashton, who recently studied this subject in Europe, concluded that the dwarf size of the Brittany breed of cattle in France was due largely to the great deficiency of calcium and phosphorus in the district where the breed was developed. This dwarfed condition is apparently a result of the cumulative effort on the part of animals through successive generations to adapt themselves to their environmental conditions. If the animal cannot get enough calcium and phosphorus to build a strong skeleton of large size, there is a tendency to reduce the size of the bones.

"Ashton concluded that, on the other hand, the large size and rugged frames of the Brown Swiss breed were due in part to the high calcium content of the soil in Switzerland. Also, for generations the cattle have secured their living from roughage, with little or no concentrates. This roughage has undoubtedly supplied a goodly amount of calcium, and of phosphorus as well.

"It was also pointed out that in the Island of Jersey the soil is more deficient in calcium and phosphorus than in Guernsey, where the cattle are larger. Breeders of the "Island Type" of Jerseys in the U. S. recognize that there is a tendency for their cattle to become somewhat larger and more rugged in bone when they are amply fed and kept on soil rich in minerals.

"It is also well known that the small size of the Shetland pony is due to the rigorous climate of the Shetland Islands and the lack of fertility in the soil. In marked contrast are the Percheron, Belgian, Clydesdale, and Shire breeds of horses, all of which were developed in districts where the soil was rich and the climate was moderate."



**MORE POTATOES  
TO FRANCE**

Through the French Supply Council France has purchased 30 cars of potatoes. It is expected these will be loaded at Searsport, Maine, March 1.

This shipment expands exports to at least 3450 cars (500 cwt. per car).

**COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN TO  
MEASURE POTATO ACREAGE  
UNDER 1947 GOALS PROGRAM**

Since only those growers who plant within their 1947 potato acreage goals will be eligible for price support, it will be necessary to measure acreage according to instructions issued February 14 by

Dave Davidson, Director, Field Service Branch.

"Form-47 Potatoes 3" will be filled out by community committeemen for farms "for which potato goals were established and on other farms with respect to which price support is requested."

State and county committees will supervise and spotcheck this work to the extent necessary to assure acceptable acreage reports.

Measurement procedures are similar to those employed under previous commodity acreage goal or allotment programs. Expense incurred for measuring acreage will be charged to "1947 potato goals."

**DIRT-MOVING CONTRACTORS MEET  
WITH ACP PEOPLE IN MIDWEST**

Dirt-moving contractors met with Agricultural Conservation committeemen in two Midwestern States during the past few weeks to discuss the

various kinds of equipment and methods used in constructing terraces and ponds under the 1947 ACP.

In Missouri, the ninth annual short course of Terracing and Conservation was held January 30 and 31 by the College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, in cooperation with the Missouri Association of Agricultural Conservation Contractors.

Over 200 persons attended the Missouri conference. Aim of the contractors is to equip themselves to construct terraces, terrace outlets, livestock ponds, and farm ditches for Missouri farmers under the 1947 ACP practices and specifications.

In Nebraska, a series of 7 district meetings was held with dirt-moving contractors and county agricultural conservation committeemen. There are about 500 dirt-moving contractors engaged in carrying out conservation practices on Nebraska farms, and about 350 attended this meeting.

Even though the 1947 practice specifications are more rigid for dams, terraces, drainage ditches, and land leveling, the contractors agreed that the tightening of the specifications would get better conservation practices on farms.

There should not be too much difficulty during 1947 in having sufficient dirt-moving equipment to carry out the practices farmers request, the two groups concluded. Both new and surplus equipment is becoming more available to dirt-moving contractors. The outlook for ponds, ditches, and terraces in Missouri and Nebraska is good.

DUST STORMS IN TEXAS  
AND OKLAHOMA SHARED  
BY RHODE ISLAND

Recent reports of dust riding into the Midwest with snow from the western plains are warning that conservation efforts should be redoubled in all areas, even though return of dust bowl conditions is not an immediate threat, according to the Department of Agriculture.

A quick check indicates that about a million acres in Texas, Oklahoma, and nearby areas suffered some damage from blowing in late January. Thus far, blowing damage has been local, but severe enough in places to damage wheat fields, block roads, and to cause auto accidents.

While this spectacle was being kicked up in the plains area, thousands of dollars worth of Rhode Island's potato and vegetable land was being whirled up in dense clouds "that rose hundreds of feet and obliterated buildings and highways" in Newport and Washington Counties, according to local reports. Dust clouds were so thick motorists had to proceed with caution.

Ralph Shaw, State PMA Director in Rhode Island, says, "Failure on the part of many of the State's potato growers to plant an adequate cover crop was definitely the reason for this loss of soil. In other cases, because of a big crop of potatoes and shortage of help cover crops were planted too late to become well established before freezing weather. It is estimated that about half of the potato acreage in the State had adequate cover with half either completely unprotected or only partially protected."

"Droughty conditions" in Great Plains areas last spring and summer, followed by sudden rains, prevented many farmers from planting grain or drowned out their wheat. Consequently, considerable acreages weren't protected by enough cover during the winter, and in a few areas a light 1946 crop left a shortage of stubble for protective mulch tillage. Moreover, short feed and forage crops resulted in heavy grazing of wheat and some grain sorghum fields after harvest. This led to further reduction in cover.

Winter freezing and thawing pulverized the sparsely covered soil, and exposed dry topsoil blew eastward when high, drying winds swept down in late January and early February.

THE WORLD STILL  
NEEDS FOOD

Unfavorable weather in all parts of the globe is defeating the efforts of the world's people to feed themselves. Needs for world food imports prior to the 1947 harvest have not changed during the past month, the Department of Agriculture reported.

Food shortages in Continental Europe have been aggravated by an unusually severe winter. Supplies of food fell to critically low levels in December and January because transportation was disrupted by snow and ice. Grain stocks in a number of countries will cover only one or two months ration requirements, which will not be changed by deliveries of grain from the 1946 harvest.

The United Kingdom has bread grains below the stocks of a year earlier, despite voluntary use of bread coupons to reduce consumption. Meat supplies have also been reduced.

The most critical food shortage is now in the Netherlands East Indies where the main rice crop is not due until spring. A very good rice crop in India has raised public confidence in Bengal, Madras and the rest of southern India. However, anxiety of the Indian Food Department is now centered on the wheat needed to keep rationing going until the spring crop is marketed in May.



ACP MAY LOSE SUPPORT THROUGH  
PUBLIC MISUNDERSTANDING, SAYS  
DR. SIEVERS, MASS. AGRICULTURAL  
EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTOR

Dr. Fred J. Sievers is the director of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, Amherst. He is a scientist, with no direct connection with conservation programs, but with a broad and intelligent interest in farm and

national welfare.

Quoted below are some notes from a talk that he gave recently to the National Agricultural Limestone Association:

"Through the exploitation of agriculture we have built up a great nation. Agriculture is our most important natural resource. . .

"Those of us who have served for long periods of years in the field of agricultural education had the idea that if we developed an agricultural program that was formulated well enough to bring to the attention of the farmer what was necessary from the standpoint of conserving the fertility of the soil, that was all that was required. His personal interest and pride would do the rest. But it didn't work that way. It wasn't because he didn't understand that it failed. The answer was that he couldn't. The tremendous financial drain that had been made upon agriculture through its contribution to the development of other industries, made such a program impossible. . .

"The need for agricultural conservation under federal direction came into being during the depression of the thirties when there were many 'make work' programs being promoted and, unfortunately, it was confused with these in the minds of many and advocates of 'agricultural' conservation were not particularly popular. As a result, the agricultural conservation program became involved in political controversies to the extent that to some it was considered a handout to the farmer instead of an aid to agriculture. . .

". . . We are still in danger, because of public misunderstanding, of having the support of this program considered an unnecessary use of public funds. This, in the face of what has been accomplished, seems little short of tragic. . .

"You can call it a subsidy if you wish. That term doesn't embarrass me. . .

"We all believe in freedom of enterprise as long as it doesn't come in conflict with public interests. We, as a democratic nation, should have the power and sense to step in and protect ourselves against private abuses that interfere with the best interests of the public..."

15 PERCENT OF 1946 ACP PAYMENTS CERTIFIED For the period ending February 14, 15.2 percent of the total estimated 1946 ACP payments had been certified in the Northeast States. Massachusetts still leads with 42.3 percent or \$121,980 certified. Other State reports follow: Maine, \$29,912 - 7.6%; New Hampshire, \$968 - 2%; Vermont, \$14,816 - 5.2%; Rhode Island, none; Connecticut, \$13,952 - 5.5%; New York, \$203,346 - 12.1%; New Jersey, \$85,871 - 10%; and Pennsylvania, \$474,462 - 19.8%.

\* \* \*

---Belgian sugar production for the 1946-47 season totaled 256,000 short tons, compared with 155,000 tons (raw value) last season. Sugar rations are being increased from 1250 to 1400 grams monthly.



38 MILLION POUNDS  
OF PEANUTS EXCHANGED  
FOR BELGIAN PALM OIL

Usually no peanuts are exported from the U. S. However, export licenses have been issued by the Department of Commerce for 38,082,240 pounds shelled peanuts and more than one million pounds of unshelled peanuts.

The bulk of the shipments go to Belgium where they will be crushed for edible oil and protein concentrate for livestock feed thus helping to alleviate European shortages of edible oils.

In return, palm oil will be imported to this country from Belgium. This commodity is much needed by the tin plate industry.

Other peanut exports include 2240 pounds to Panama (shelled), and the following quantities of unshelled peanuts: Switzerland, 650,000 lbs.; Holland, 400,000 lbs.; Spain, 50,000 lbs.; Portugal, 50,000 lbs.; Netherlands West Indies, 25,110 lbs.; also 30,530 lbs. of salted peanuts to various countries.

Total peanut production in the U. S. amounts to slightly more than one million tons. Peanut growers are guaranteed 90 percent of parity as of July 15, the beginning of the marketing year. Parity as of July 15, 1946, was 9.55 cents per lb. and growers received 90 percent of parity or more for their 1946 peanut crop.

20 PERCENT MORE CHICKS  
HATCHED IN JANUARY THAN  
IN JANUARY LAST YEAR

Commercial hatcheries turned out 20 percent more chicks during January this year than they did in the same month a year ago. The only sections of the country that reported decreases to the U. S. D. A. were the Pacific Coast States which reported 4 percent fewer chicks hatched and the South Atlantic States which reported 2 percent fewer.

Moreover, in the important egg and poultry producing areas of the Middle West the number of eggs in incubators on February 1 was substantially larger than a year ago.

In contrast to both these actual increases are the reported intentions of farmers to purchase 6 percent fewer baby chicks this year than in 1946.

PROTEIN MEAL ALLOCATED TO  
FRANCE, NORWAY, AND EIRE

The U. S. D. A. has made the following emergency export allocations of oil cakes and meals since January 14: Belgium, 25,000 long tons; Netherlands, 20,000; Finland, 5,000; France, 25,000; Denmark, 10,000; Norway, 10,000; Sweden, 10,000; and Eire, 5,000; total, 110,000 long tons.

The allocations are good for the first six months of 1947. Any type of oil cake or meal may be procured against the allocations, but the claimants have been requested to purchase supplies at locations from which the movement to ports will minimize any interference with the food export program.

\* \* \*

"Let us see that our money is well spent. I am not against spending money, only against wasting money. In our zeal for economy let us see that we don't try to economize at the expense of security. We can't afford to economize at the expense of the health of the people. We have a responsibility to that eight inches of soil which covers our great land and on which we are all dependent." - Senator Aiken, Vt.



Radio Transcription

A. W. Manchester, Director

Northeast Region, Field Service Branch

Production & Marketing Administration, USDA

February 27, 1947 - 6:15 a.m.

Station WBZ - Boston, Mass.

The numbers of livestock on American farms went down around 4 percent last year. There was a drop in the numbers of practically every kind of livestock, but the decline was the greatest in sheep, hogs, horses, chickens and turkeys.

We now have as compared with a year ago, in round numbers, three million less sheep, four and a half million less hogs, two million less horses and mules, and 55 million less chickens. We have been eating up our livestock faster than we have been raising them. That may not be a very good explanation of the drop in horse numbers -- not to mention mules. The tractor, the truck, and the auto have been steadily displacing them for years. We are down now to roughly half as many draft animals as we had 20 years ago, and the decrease last year was greater than in any preceding year. The motor is replacing the horse faster and faster.

We lost about 600 thousand milking cows last year, going down from 26 million, 700 thousand to 26 million, 100 thousand. The number of cows reached its peak in 1945 and has been dropping since. It appears likely that the drop will continue for at least another year. The number of heifers between one and two years of age has also declined. There has been a pick-up during the past year in the number of dairy calves raised, which many indicate that the decline in dairy cow numbers is approaching its end.

The facts about meat animals may have some long-run significance to the meat-hungry public. The number of all cattle dropped in the year by about a million and a third. This is the second year of a drop in cattle numbers.

The number on farms is still very high, however, as compared with pre-war figures. We have 81 million now, as compared to from 60 to a little over 70 million through the 30's and up until we were well into a war situation. The number of cattle has been going down for two years, however, making a drop of 4 and a half million in the two-year period.

The 57 million hogs on farms the first of January can be compared with the peak of 83 million in 1944. It is, however, pretty close to the 10-year-average number.

Poultry numbers, too, have gone down very sharply from the big numbers that we had at the war-time crest, but we are still a little above the 10-year average.

It seems to me the story for livestock as a whole is that the readjustment to peace-time production has been going on quietly but quite fast.

Has it gone on too fast or not fast enough? Is it likely to go too far?

The answer to those questions are matters of personal opinion.

(Continued on next page)



If American prosperity remains at very high levels, the American people want and are willing to pay reasonably well for large quantities of meat and livestock products. If, however, consumers' buying ability slumps, even modestly, the demand for the more costly foods drops off very fast.

The question of whether we have too much or too little livestock from the standpoint of satisfying demand is tied up with the question of whether or not we are going to maintain the national income at a high and stable level.

From the standpoint of the health of the American people, it is beyond question that cow numbers, particularly, are too low. We need an increase rather than a decrease. But from the standpoint of the dairymen's welfare, such an increase would be disastrous unless consumers are in a position to maintain or expand the high levels of milk buying that were reached during the war.

From the long-time point of view, there is pretty general agreement that to maintain soil fertility we need to have more rather than less of our land planted to the grasses and legumes -- more feed for more cattle. That, too, points to shifts of production in the direction of American appetities -- more meat, milk and dairy products.

Pointing in the other direction is the fact that the western ranges are probably stocked now more heavily than is best from a conservation standpoint. If the ranges are to stay good they should carry somewhat less cattle. Conservation, then, suggests less cattle on the ranges and more in the humid areas. Balancing one against the other, we can probably feed more cattle than we have now and feed them well, particularly as pasture and hay improvement move forward.

But expansion of cattle numbers, either dairy or beef, is practical from the farmers' standpoint only if the market is sustained by high purchasing power of consumers and by direct measures to make it possible for every person to be well fed.

\* \* \*

(Agriculture in Action -- Issued weekly and distributed in Northeast to State PMA Committeemen, State Offices of PMA; Farmer Fieldmen, County Offices in Mass., Conn., Penna., N.J., and N.H.; County Committeemen in N.J., Penna., N.H., and R.I.)